

**HEALTH COMMISSION
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
Resolution No. 22-15**

Honoring LGBTQ Pride Month

WHEREAS, June is LGBTQ Pride Month, a time to celebrate the wide spectrum of individuals who comprise this community and acknowledge their continuing struggle for equal rights in this country, and around the world; and

WHEREAS, Pride is celebrated in June to commemorate a group of LGBTQ individuals, mostly transgender women and gay men, who protested on June 28, 1969, following a police raid of the Stonewall Inn, an LGBTQ club in New York City. This event is considered a turning point in the modern LGBTQ movement for equality; and

WHEREAS, Individuals who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer, and/or questioning, are referred to as LGBTQ; and

WHEREAS, Members of the LGBTQ community are frequently raised with expectations from family and community of being cisgender and heterosexual. Each LGBTQ individual must internally self-identify with their gender identity and/or sexual orientation, communicate this information to those closest to them, and search for others like themselves, and allies, in order to find their community. This deeply personal process is referred to as “Coming Out;” and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ people can be found in every race, ethnicity, age, gender, socio-economic class, religion, geographic region, education level, political affiliation, spectrum of physical abilities and disabilities, and any group of people; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ people around the world have made, and continue to make, vital contributions in every avenue of life and profession; and

WHEREAS, throughout much of the history of the United States, same-gender sex and relationships were criminalized in many States and many LGBTQ people in the United States have been forced to hide their LGBTQ identities while living in secrecy and fear; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ people in the United States face discrimination in employment, healthcare, education, housing, and many other areas impacting their physical and mental health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, The LGBTQ community has faced discrimination, inequality, and violence throughout the history of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Until 1973, the American Psychiatric Association categorized homosexuality as a mental illness; and

WHEREAS, During the Clinton Presidential administration, the federal government instituted the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy, which barred openly gay, lesbian, or bisexual individuals from the military because their presence, “Would create an unacceptable risk to the high standards of morale,

good order, and discipline.” During his presidential tenure, Bill Clinton also signed the “Defense of Marriage Act,” which defined marriage as “a union of one man and one woman;” and

WHEREAS, Twenty-eight States have no explicit ban on discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in the workplace, housing, or public accommodations, and 34 States have no explicit ban on discrimination against LGBTQ individuals in education; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ youth have an increased risk of suicide; homelessness; becoming victims of bullying, violence, and human trafficking; and developing behavioral health issues; and

WHEREAS, Only 13 States and the District of Columbia have explicit policies in place to protect foster youth from discrimination based on both sexual orientation and gender identity; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ youth of color are overrepresented in child welfare and juvenile justice systems; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ people in the United States, in particular transgender individuals of color, face a disproportionately high risk of becoming victims of violent hate crimes; and

WHEREAS, Over 25% of transgender people have lost a job due to discrimination, and more than 75% have experienced some form of workplace discrimination. Transgender People of Color experience higher rates of harassment in addition to physical and sexual violence on the job; and

WHEREAS, members of the LGBTQ community have been targeted in acts of mass violence within the United States, including the arson attack at the Upstairs Lounge in New Orleans, Louisiana, on June 24, 1973, in which 32 people died, and the Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando, Florida, on June 12, 2016, in which 49 people were killed; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ people around the world continue to be arrested and, in some cases, tortured or executed, because of their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identities; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ individuals of all ages face physical and behavioral health disparities in the United States linked to social stigma, discrimination, and denial of their civil and human rights. This results in the group experiencing higher rates of:

- Suicide and suicidal thoughts
- Mood and Anxiety disorders
- Substance and tobacco abuse
- HIV/AIDS
- Obesity
- Eating disorders
- Breast Cancer
- HPV, and related cervical and anal cancer

WHEREAS, HIV/AIDS has disproportionately impacted LGBTQ people in the United States, due in part to discrimination against LGBTQ individuals during the early stages of the HIV and AIDS epidemic, resulting in a lack of funding and research devoted to finding effective prevention and treatment; and

WHEREAS, Compared to other groups, LGBTQ people are less likely to have health insurance, more likely to delay seeking care, more likely to report lack of culturally competent care, and more likely to report poor quality of care and unfair treatment by healthcare providers; and

WHEREAS, There is a need to improve government data on sexual orientation and gender identity in order to ensure the health and wellbeing of LGBTQ people in the United States, including those residing in San Francisco, who remain invisible without accurate data to represent this diverse group's needs; and

WHEREAS, Between 2013 and 2015, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled in two cases (Obergefell v. Hodges and United States v. Windsor), that same-sex couples have a constitutional right to marry, and that the "Defense of Marriage Act" was unconstitutional; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, President Barack Obama signed the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act into law to protect all people in the United States from crimes motivated by race, and the actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity of an individual; and

WHEREAS, in June 2020, the Supreme Court of the United States affirmed that existing civil rights laws prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity; and

WHEREAS, After World War II, thousands of military veterans who did not fit into society's ideals of heteronormativity chose to move to San Francisco, instead of returning to their hometowns; and

WHEREAS, In the 1950's, two LGBTQ organizations were founded with headquarters in San Francisco. The Daughters of Bilitis was the first Lesbian civil rights and political group in the United States. The Mattachine Society was a national civil rights group for gay men; and

WHEREAS, The Tavern Guild, the first gay business association in the United States, was founded in San Francisco in 1962 as a response to raids of LGBTQ bars by police; and

WHEREAS, In 1966, three years before the Stonewall riots, transgender individuals in San Francisco rioted at the Compton's Cafeteria in the Tenderloin, as a protest against police harassment and brutality. The heroism of this uprising is at the heart of the first legally recognized Transgender district in the world; and

WHEREAS, The Sexual Freedom League, a group advocating for the rights of bisexuals, was founded in 1967 in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, The first LGBTQ Pride parade in San Francisco took place in 1970; and

WHEREAS, The Gay Olympics, later renamed the Gay Games, was founded in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, In response to the devastation of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, the LGBTQ community created a matrix of social service programs and partnered with the San Francisco Department of Public Health to develop the highest quality of research, prevention, and treatment programs; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco has been home to many esteemed LGBTQ leaders in many professional areas. The following are a few examples of San Francisco's many LGBTQ leaders:

- Margaret Chung, lesbian and first American-born Chinese female physician to earn a California medical license
- Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon, Lesbian couple and groundbreaking LGBTQ civil rights activists who founded The Daughters of Bilitis
- Rose Bamberger, Filipina and founding member of the Daughters of Bilitis
- Harry Hay, co-founder of the Mattachine Society and Radical Faeries
- Jose Sarria, first openly gay United States Presidential candidate in 1962
- Harvey Milk, first openly gay politician in California
- Anne Kronenberg, Harvey Milk's campaign manager, LGBTQ rights activist, and former San Francisco Department of Public Health Deputy Director of Health
- Crystal Jang, first openly gay Asian lesbian teacher within the San Francisco Unified School District
- Gilbert Baker, creator of the LGBTQ rainbow flag
- Cleve Jones, co-founder of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and conceived the AIDS Quilt
- Randy Shilts, first openly gay reporter for the San Francisco Chronicle, author of "The Mayor of Castro Street: The Life and Times of Harvey Milk," and "The Band Played On," a chronicle of the early HIV/AIDS Epidemic
- Tom Waddell, founder of the Gay Olympics/Gay Games, and Castro neighborhood physician
- Marlon Riggs, Black African American filmmaker, poet, and gay rights activist
- Theresa Sparks, transgender activist, former president of the San Francisco Police Commission and past Executive Director of the Human Rights Commission
- Barbara May Cameron, LGBTQ American Indian Activist, co-founder of Gay American Indians and co-chair of Lesbians for Action
- Roma Guy, Women's and LGBTQ community activist, and former San Francisco Health Commissioner
- Stuart Gaffney and John Lewis, co-plaintiffs in the lawsuit to overturn the California ban on same gender marriage
- Jim Hormel, philanthropist, LGBTQ activist, and the first openly gay person to serve as a United States ambassador
- Mark Leno, first openly gay man to be elected to the California Senate and one of the first two openly gay men to serve in the California State Assembly
- Harry Britt, former President of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, who first introduced domestic partnership legislation
- David Campos, LGBTQ Latino former San Francisco Supervisor
- Hoover Lee, Founding member of the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance (GAPA), and the Asian and Pacific Islander Caucus of the Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club
- Honey Mahogany, Aria Sa'id, and Jenetta Johnson, San Francisco transgender activists who formed the first legally recognized Transgender District in the World

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Department of Public Health has been led by four effective LGBTQ Directors of Health: Sandra Hernandez MD, Mitchell Katz MD, Barbara Garcia, and Grant Colfax MD; and

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Health Commission membership has always included LGBTQ individuals and individuals living with HIV since its inception in 1985; and

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Health Commission has supported the City's LGBTQ communities throughout its history, through resolutions, approval of LGBTQ budget-related items, and support of the San Francisco Department of Public Health programs serving LGBTQ communities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Health Commission recognizes Pride Month as an important time to celebrate the significant contributions of LGBTQ individuals to the history of the United States, the state of California, and the City of San Francisco; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, the San Francisco Health Commission recognizes that LGBTQ communities enhance the rich diversity of and strengthen the City of San Francisco; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, the San Francisco Health Commission supports efforts, through policy, legislation, public health and social service programs, data collection, and shared community values, to ensure that San Francisco remains a beacon of hope for LGBTQ people around the world.

I hereby certify that the San Francisco Health Commission adopted the foregoing resolution at its June 7, 2022 meeting.

Mark Morewitz, M.S.W.
Health Commission Secretary